

LOWER BIG BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
August 28, 2025, 8:30 A.M.

Notice of the meeting was published in accordance with Section 84-1411, Nebraska Statutes, in the Beatrice Daily Sun and the Wilber Republican. Notice was also sent to Radio Station KWBE, Crete News, and Fairbury Journal-News. In accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, the Open Meetings Act is posted on the north wall of the meeting room for public viewing.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Duane Parde at 8:32 a.m.

Directors Present: Larry Barta, Ryan Birkett, Steve Kelley, Bob Lorenz, Duane Parde, Jason Pohlmann, Dean Roehr, Rodney Skleba, Jason Sand, Doug Stokebrand, Chad Weichel, Bruce Weise.

Staff Present: Scott Sobotka, Manager; Tyler Weishahn, Assistant Manager; Adam Kimmerling, Office Administrator; Nick Schroeder, GIS/IT/Technical Specialist, Brandy Scholl, NRD Secretary Ryan Thomas, Resources Specialist, Scott Theis, Operations Supervisor.

Directors Absent: Brent Katz

Others Present: Josh Malchow, Gage County NRCS

CONSIDERATION OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

Brent Katz has requested to be excused from the August 28th, 2025 board meeting.

MOTION #1 was made by Doug Stokebrand, seconded by Jason Sand, to excuse Brent Katz from the August 28th 2025 board meeting. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel, Weise. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 28, 2025, CONSENT AGENDA

Duane noted a correction to the minutes.

MOTION #2 was made by Dean Roehr, seconded by Bruce Weise, to adopt the Consent Agenda for the August 28, 2025, board meeting which includes: adoption of the agenda as submitted, approval of the corrected July 10, 2025 meeting minutes, financial status report dated July 31, 2025, July 2025 bills payable, July 2025 revenues, monthly bank account summary and Beatrice West and Wymore Rural Water Financials. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel, Weise. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

GROUNDWATER QUANTITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Tyler reviewed the draft comments received from the Department of Water, Energy and Environment. A formal letter outlining their comments is expected soon.

Discussion was held on setting the date, time and place for the public hearing for the proposed Groundwater Rules and Regulations update. A consensus was reached to hold the public hearing on October 30, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Building on the Gage county fairgrounds. The date will be set at the next board meeting after formal comments are received.

Tyler informed the Board of replacement Well Permit LBB-1172 received for Virginia Filipi in Section 6-T6N-R4E. The permit meets all requirements of a replacement well.

MOTION #3 was made by Jason Pohlmann, and seconded by Doug Stokebrand, to approve the replacement well for Virginia Filipi. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel, Weise. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dean discussed progress on the building project. A change order has been presented to switch the rake and corners on both buildings to blue. The building committee has recommended approval of the change order. The change order was received for \$10,535.00.

MOTION #4 was made by Dean Roehr, and seconded by Rodney Skleba, to approve the change order for exterior trim color in the amount of \$10,535.00 as recommended by the building committee. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel. **NAY:** Weise. **ABSTAIN:** Pohlmann.

Dean also discussed a quote received for low voltage cabling and possible changes to interior finishes. Staff will review these quotes and present summaries for consideration at the September board meeting.

NARD CONFERENCE VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

Discussion was held regarding the appointment of our voting delegate and alternate for the 2025 NARD Annual Conference.

MOTION #5 was made by Jason Pohlmann, and seconded by Rodney Skleba, to appoint Duane Parde as the voting delegate and Steve Kelley as the alternate voting delegate for the LBBNRD for the 2025 NARD Annual Conference. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Lorenz, Pohlmann, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel, Weise. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** Kelley, Parde.

NARD RESOLUTIONS

Scott reported that he has received no resolutions to date.

SWAN 31 MITIGATION PROJECT UPDATE

Scott is working with the State and affected landowner to find a solution to keep the dam at a significant hazard classification.

NRD URBAN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Scott reported on the status of projects which were carried over from FY 2025. Two villages submitted documentation which requested payment for items that were not approved. Payment has been made based upon the approved items.

NRD PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES REPORT

Scott stated that staff have been made aware of a log jam on the Big Blue River above Dogwood Road bridge. Gage County Emergency Management has been notified and have worked with the County to place signage warning of the danger.

Scott reported that staff is still seeking funding for final design and construction of the Little Indian WFPO project. Staff plans to meet with Senator Fischer's office to discuss the possibility of a Congressionally Directed Spending allocation for the project.

Scott noted that there will likely be 319 funding for sediment removal and shoreline stabilization at Clatonia public use area. The NRD has budgeted \$500,000 for the project with 60% of that to be covered by 319 funding.

The Trailblazer/Tallgrass pipeline is crossing 13 critical infrastructure easements. Staff will continue to work with the company to make sure crossings are handled appropriately.

The audit was conducted August 6-7. Scott noted that no new findings were presented in the preliminary report.

Scott and Tyler attended the Managers' meeting in Niobrara this week. The Governors' Water Quality and Quantity Task Force and Producer Connect were discussed.

Scott stated that he is continuing to work with Saline County Planning and Zoning to acknowledge breach areas as part of the building permit process.

Director Sand left at 9:45 A.M.

CONSIDERATION OF MONITORING WELL BIDS

Tyler reviewed proposals for the development of three wells, noting that the proposals were higher than expected. Tyler suggested constructing one monitoring well in Sub Area 9. Bids were received of \$29,165 and \$31,610 for the well in Sub Area 9. Steve Kelley and Bruce Weise noted that they have existing unused wells in sub area 7 which could be added to the District's monitoring well network.

MOTION #6 was made by Bruce Weise, seconded by Larry Barta, to work with the low bidder to drill one of the wells utilizing state funding for construction and telemetry . Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Roehr, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel, Weise. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **NOT PRESENT:** Sand.

FY 2026 BUDGET

Scott reviewed the changes to the FY 2026 budget. The budget calls for revenues of \$4,897,679.25 and expenditures of \$7,510,759.40

MOTION #7 was made by Steve Kelley, seconded by Chad Weichel, to approve the FY 2026 budget as presented. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Roehr, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel, Weise. **NAY:** None. **ABSTAIN:** None. **NOT PRESENT:** Sand

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS

Josh Malchow distributed a report to the Directors.

EXTENSION OFFICE

Tyler stated that he plans to attend an iCrop meeting with UNL Extension Agent Matheus Ribeiro tomorrow.

NRC

Steve reported that the next meeting will be September 30th during the NARD conference.

NARD

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

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| a. August 22 rd – September 1 st | Nebraska State Fair |
| b. August 25 th -27 th | Manager's Meeting - Niobrara |
| c. September 1 st | Labor Day |
| d. September 9 th – 11 th | Husker Harvest Days |
| e. September 18 th | Budget Hearing 8:30 a.m. followed by levy hearing |
| f. September 18 th | NRD Board Meeting following hearings |
| g. September 29 th – 30 th | NARD Annual Conference |

Being no further business, Chairperson Duane Parde adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Secretary, Jason Sand

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Lower Big Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held August 29 2025, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available Lower Big Blue NRD Board of Directors Meeting August 29, 2024 for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for said body; and that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.